

# INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Albert Norden

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DATE OF INFO. Early May 1950, 20 April 1950

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1A

1. Albert Norden, chief of the Press Division of the Office for Information (Amt für Informationen) of the DDR, has been absent from his office since about 20 April 1950. There was a scene on that day between him and Eisler's deputy, Georg Stibi, who had just found out that one of Norden's personal assistants had fled from the Soviet Sector. Stibi accused Norden of having trusted the assistant too much, with obviously disastrous results. He said it was to be feared that Norden's whole division had been contaminated, and blamed Norden in addition for several administrative mistakes recently made. All this had the result of frightening Norden. That night he had a serious heart attack (possibly faked, possibly the result of taking too many sleeping tablets), and the next day he did not appear at the office. Instead of telephoning his secretary, which would have been normal, he sent her a hand-written letter by his driver with instructions about some business. He requested her in the letter to say at the office that he was in the hospital and would probably remain there for five or six weeks. According to his secretary, Norden is in the hospital at Buch (Berlin, Soviet Sector). The secretary also appears to have lost the confidence of the authorities in the office. She no longer records minutes of meetings or sits in on confidential discussions, and she is watched carefully wherever she goes.
2. Norden's position is now being filled temporarily by Bruno Goldhammer, chief of the Information Control Division. He has told visiting western journalists that Norden was found to be quite inefficient and that he may never return to his job in the Office for Information.

Field Comment:

\_\_\_\_\_ Norden's secretary stated on 9 May that Norden had been ill for some time with a serious circulatory ailment and would probably be away from the office another four to six weeks. His work is being done by Goldhammer.

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